Heffernan Michael Thomas Form 3 December 13, 2018

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number:

3235-0104

Expires:

response...

January 31, 2005

0.5

Estimated average burden hours per

SECURITIES

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

A Heffernan Michael Thomas

(Last) (First) (Middle) Statement

(Month/Day/Year)

12/12/2018

2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Akebia Therapeutics, Inc. [AKBA]

4. Relationship of Reporting

(Check all applicable)

Person(s) to Issuer

5. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

C/O AKEBIA THERAPEUTICS, INC., 245 FIRST ST.

(Street)

X Director Officer (give title below) (specify below)

10% Owner _Other

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting

Person

Form filed by More than One

Reporting Person

4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial

CAMBRIDGE, MAÂ 02142

(City) (State) (Zip)

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)

2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned

(Instr. 4)

or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

Ownership Ownership Form: Direct (D)

(Instr. 5)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

SEC 1473 (7-02)

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)

2. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date** (Month/Day/Year)

3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)

4. Conversion or Exercise Price of

Ownership Form of Derivative

6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)

Date Exercisable

Expiration Title Date

Amount or Number of Shares

Derivative Security

Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I)

(Instr. 5)

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Heffernan Michael Thomas

C/O AKEBIA THERAPEUTICS, INC. 245 FIRST ST.

CAMBRIDGE, MAÂ 02142

Signatures

/s/ Nicole R. Hadas, Attorney-in-fact for Michael T. Heffernan 12/13/2018

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

No securities are beneficially owned

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

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Remarks:

Exhibit 24- Power of Attorney

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *See* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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